United Nations CEDAW/C/PHL/Q/7-8/Add.1

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
22 April 2016

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Sixty-fourth session
4-22 July 2016
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of the Philippines

Addendum

Replies of the Philippines*

[Date received: 20 April 2016]

Note: The present document is being circulated in English, French and Spanish only.
* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Please recycle

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

1. Does the definition of "discrimination against women" in the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) include direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private sectors, in line with Article 1 of the Convention?

1.1 The definition covers direct and indirect discrimination in public and private sectors.

Status and content of the amendments to the:

Family Code

1.2 Bills pending in Congress provide equality in decision-making between husband/father and wife/mother, repealing Articles 14, 96, 124, 211, and 225 of the Family Code.

Anti-Rape law, definition, and whether it includes marital rape

1.3 Senate Bill (SB) 2462, pending in the Congress, introduces the following:

- Revised definition of rape, centred on lack of consent;
- Requirement of force/violence and of proof of penetration removed;
- Age determining statutory rape increased from 12 to 15 years old and below.

1.4 The Anti-Rape Law and jurisprudence recognize marital rape.

1.5 The draft Philippine Code of Crimes (PCC) seeks to repeal the "forgiveness" clause.

Anti-Sexual Harassment Law

1.6 Pending bills expand the definition of sexual harassment to include peer sexual harassment and cyber harassment, strengthen the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) in establishments and increase penalties for the crime.

Magna Carta of Workers in the Informal Economy (MACWIE)

1.7 Pending bills on MACWIE protect women workers in the informal economy against gender-based discrimination.

Sexual Infidelity Bill (amending the Revised Penal Code [RPC] Arts. 333 and 334)

1.8 Pending bills amend/repeal the unequal provisions on adultery and concubinage under the RPC, equalizing the evidentiary requirements and penalties for both offending spouses.

1.9 PCC includes sexual infidelity as a punishable act, where both the husband and wife are equally liable.

Anti-Prostitution Bill (amending RPC Art. 202)

1.10 The amendment on the Anti-Trafficking Law recognizes and partially addresses the issue of prostitution as a form of exploitation only in so far as it concerns trafficked persons who end up in prostitution.

1.11 Eleven bills pending in Congress amend Art. 202 of the RPC by:

- redefining prostitution and persons exploited in prostitution
- targeting the demand side by shifting the criminal liability to buyers/facilitators of the act
- treating prostituted persons as victims
- according higher penalties to those committing child prostitution

Pre-mature marriage (amending RPC Art. 351)

1.12 The act of premature marriage has been decriminalized by RA 10655 passed in 2015.

Status of the draft Philippine Code of Crimes (PCC) and its difference from RPC

1.13 The completed draft of the PCC will be endorsed to Congress in 2016. Its salient features include:

- Structure based on central themes with common features
- Penal provisions rationalized and categorized as either crimes against persons, property, or the state
- Consolidation of provisions in the RPC referring to same criminal act
- Review of outdated penal provisions
- Inclusion of trans-border crimes
- Penal provisions are conduct-based

Measures to enhance the awareness about gender equality, the Convention and international human rights standards

1.14 Measures taken from 2012-2016 to enhance awareness:

- Gender sensitivity trainings (GSTs) and seminars on CEDAW for 384 male and 407 female justices and lawyers of the Supreme Court, Sandiganbayan, the Court of Appeals, and the lower courts.
- Seminars related to women's and children's rights for 10,443 court interpreters, court social workers, clerks of court, lawyers and aspirants to judicial posts.
- Seminars on trafficking in persons (TIP) for 3,898 judges, lawyers, prosecutors, court personnel, other concerned government agencies, barangay officials and civil society groups.

1.15 Information caravans on MCW and Anti-Violence against Women (VAW) laws held in six provinces reaching 1,043 audiences.

1.16 Annual campaigns conducted to raise awareness on CEDAW, MCW, related laws and international human rights standards.

2. Reconciling in practice conflicting provisions of MCW and PD 1083 (Code of Muslim Personal Laws [CMPL]) related to marital relations.

2.1 The Philippines remains in the process of reconciling the MCW and PD 1083. There is no conflict between the two laws in as much as the MCW respects the cultural identity and integrity of women. The Muslim population views the CMPL as having primacy over civil law due to its basis in the Koran. Practices such as polygamy and child marriages are now strongly discouraged and have been regarded as exception to the general rule.

Functioning of customary justice mechanisms and their relationship to the formal justice system

2.2 Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Muslim women generally resort first to customary law and justice mechanisms. When these fail, the case is brought to the formal justice system which includes the legal complaint mechanism provided under RA 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and PD 1083 (CMPL).

A. Access to justice and legal complaint mechanisms

3. Number of cases of discrimination against women that have been received and processed by the State Party's Commission on Human Rights (CHR) as Gender Ombud

3.1 In 2009-2015, CHR rendered 2,394 legal assistance and investigation in response to alleged human rights violations against women. On MCW violations, CHR recorded 47 cases, 10 of which have been resolved.

Number of decisions issued by the judiciary in cases of violation of women's rights

3.2 In 2014, the judiciary decided on 6,059 rape cases, 6,263 cases on Violence against Women and their Children (VAWC), as defined by R.A. 9262 and 148 cases of sexual harassment.

Measures to ensure reparation, including adequate compensation for victims

3.3 Victims of violent crimes, including rape, may file claims for compensation before the Department of Justice (DOJ) Board of Claims pursuant to RA 7309. Penalties or fines are determined by the courts in accordance with the law, with due consideration of mitigating and aggravating circumstances and the wealth or means of the accused.

3.4 In a 2015 landmark decision, the Supreme Court declared a sectarian educational institution guilty for the illegal dismissal of a female employee for being pregnant out of wedlock. The Supreme Court ordered compensation for the complainant.

Information on legal aid to support women victims of discrimination and violence, returned migrant workers, rural women, indigenous women and Muslim women living in the ARMM, in gaining access to justice

3.5 Women victims of discrimination and violence may obtain legal aid through:

- The Rape Crisis Centres (RA 8505), CHR Gender Ombud and Public Attorney's Office (PAO) for free legal assistance and psychosocial services
- The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) through the Indigenous Peoples Legal Assistance Fund (IPLAF) for legal assistance to indigent and IP women
- The "Assist WELL" (Welfare, Employment, Legal and Livelihood) Program of the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) provides legal services to repatriated Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Update on Ombud's Guidelines and mechanisms to facilitate access of women to legal remedies and assist in filing of cases

3.6 CHR has adopted Gender Ombud Guidelines providing the process to access its different services, as well as the conduct of trainings for its personnel to operationalize said services.

3.7 A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was made and entered into by judicial agencies, strengthening the legal aid services and streamlining the referral of cases investigated under the Gender Ombud mechanism.

B. National machinery for the advancement of women

4. Measures to ensure adequate resources for the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)

4.1 PCW is currently working on its proposal to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to strengthen the former's structure and personnel complement. Meantime, additional staff and consultants are hired by PCW to implement critical activities.

Ensuring cooperation with civil society

4.2 Existing mechanisms to ensure collaboration with civil society include:

- Composition of the PCW Board of Commissioners, in which 12 of its members are representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs).
- The National Anti-Poverty Commission's (NAPC) Women's Sectoral Council representing women non-government organizations (NGOs) from the country's 17 regions.
- Regular consultation with CSOs and women's groups in crafting reports and development plans, in selecting representatives to national and international bodies and in implementing select activities.

Corrective measures taken as a result of the outcome of Philippine Plan for Gender Responsive Development (PPGD) and continuous monitoring and assessment of its impact

4.3 Continuous monitoring and assessment of PPGD's implementation show that issues such as poverty continue to affect women. Other emerging issues have been monitored such as cybercrimes climate change and disasters, leading to the formulation of short-term plans (e.g. Women's EDGE Plan 2013-2016[1] and annual Gender and Development [GAD] Plans and Budgets) as well as tools and mechanisms addressing such concerns.

C. Temporary special measures

5. Temporary special measures to accelerate substantive equality of women with men in all areas covered by the Convention

5.1 SB 1449 mandates that 50% of representatives nominated among the members of a registered political party or organization must be women; 40% of the five nominees officially submitted by a party to the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) must be women; and the final five representatives of each party must be composed of at least two women.

5.2 House Bill (HB) 3877 requires political parties to craft and implement a women and GAD agenda; integrate women in the leadership of their party and its internal policymaking structures; and nominate women as official candidates to elective positions.

5.3 HB 1674 allots 1/3 of the appointive positions in government to qualified women; allows women in the armed forces combat and security-related assignments; creates an all-female unit in the PNP for crimes committed against women; and, reserves for qualified women a third of scholarships and trainings in government.

5.4. Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has a scholarship program that support women to enrol in traditionally male dominated courses while the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has a similar program for women's enrolment in non-traditional vocational-technical courses.

D. Gender stereotypes

6. Strategy to address social and cultural patterns that lead to patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotyping

6.1 Education, advocacy and training remain as the State's main strategy to eliminate gender stereotyping. The Department of Education (Dep-Ed) and the CHED reviewed their curricula and developed policies and instructional materials to eliminate sexism in school and to capacitate teachers along this end. TESDA integrated gender sensitive modules in their vocational-technical courses.

6.2 Multimedia is utilized in advocacy and information campaigns targeting the public and private sectors, including schools and communities.

[1] Women's EDGE Plan is a time-slice plan of the PPGD.

6.3 GSTs and GAD capacity building for government agencies are regularly conducted by PCW and other training institutions and GAD experts. Modules and tools developed by PCW are cascaded to government agencies.

6.4 Men as women's rights advocates are seen as an effective strategy to eliminate sexism. Organizations in place are:

- MOVE (Men Opposed to Violence against Women Everywhere)
- KATROPA (Kalalakihang Tapat sa Responsibilidad at Obligasyon sa Pamilya) translated as "men who are true to their responsibilities to the family"
- ERPAT (Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities)

6.5 Gender responsive legislation is also widely utilized as a strategy.

E. Violence against women

7. Current legal and policy framework addressing VAW and results achieved

7.1 Various laws protecting women and girls from VAW are in place. (See Annex 1.)

7.2 Inter-agency mechanisms (e.g. Interagency Council on Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children [IACVAWC], Interagency Council against Trafficking [IACAT] and Interagency Council against Child Pornography [IACACP]) prepare agency plans and strategic plans reflecting laws on VAW.

- 2014-2016 IACVAWC Strategic Plan — assigns agencies concerned on the implementation, coordination and monitoring of VAWC initiatives.
- Global Action against Child Pornography (GLACY) Action Plan — includes child pornography as a form of cybercrime that has to be addressed through the cooperation of States concerned.
- 2013-2016 Women's EDGE Plan — operationalizes the MCW and recognizes VAW as a priority gender issue.

7.3 Implementation of VAW-related laws and the VAWC Strategic Plan have resulted to the following:

- Increased awareness of domestic violence and sexual harassment among private establishments and government offices.
- 80% of private establishments are compliant to RA 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act) and the 10-day paid VAWC leave requirements.
- Police officers and hospital personnel are trained in handling VAW cases.
- More health facilities catering to VAW cases were established:
- Functional Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs) in 67 out of 70 (95.7%) Department of Health (DOH) hospitals; Presence of trained Women and Child Coordinators in 3 hospitals without Women and Children Protection Units (WPCUs)
- WCPUs with trained personnel in 39 Local Government Units (LGU)-hospitals and rural health units (RHUs)
- Barangay VAW Desks in 87% of the 42,028 villages (barangays) nationwide.

Information on the prevalence of VAW: domestic violence, rape and sexual violence in armed conflict and during disasters and calamities. Whether data on VAW are collected, and emerging trends.

7.4 The 2013 and 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) included the "Women Safety Module" to capture the extent and types of VAW experienced by women aged 15-49 years old. The results were:

- 20% experienced physical violence since age 15;
- 6% experienced physical violence within 12 months prior to the survey;
- 6% reported having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime;
- 4% reported experiencing violence during pregnancy;
- 65% of married women surveyed to have experienced sexual violence reported some form of injury.

7.5 The table below details the reported incidents of VAW from 2011-2015. Data show rising incidence of VAW from 2011-2015 with violation of RA 9262 (Anti-VAWC Law) as most prevalent (85%).

Table 1
Annual Comparative Data on Violence against Women, 2011-2015

Cases	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*
Rape	832	1 030	1 259	2 010	1 986
Incestuous Rape	23	33	26	36	33
Attempted Rape	201	256	317	635	677
Acts of Lasciviousness	625	721	1 035	1 871	1 928
Sexual Harassment	63	41	196	103	88
RA 9262	9 021	11 531	16 517	31 937	28 892
Concubinage	128	146	199	349	341
Total	**10 893**	**13 758**	**19 549**	**36 941**	**33 945**

Source: Philippine National Police-Women and Children Protection Centre (PNP-WCPC)

Measures to ensure access of VAW victims to high-quality protection and support services including for women with disabilities

7.6 There are existing programs and services provided by concerned government agencies:

7.6.1 The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provides psychosocial and economic services to VAW victims including those with disabilities and victims of TIP, through its centre-based and community-based facilities and through its rape crisis centres.

7.6.2 Comprehensive Intervention against Gender-Based Violence (CIAGV) of the DSWD aims to improve the conditions of women and girls through improved prevention, assistance and reintegration of survivors of VAW cases, with features like:

- Community-based gender awareness training

- Paralegal training
- VAWC training
- Case-handling for barangay officials
- Advocacy campaign

7.6.3 National Referral System for the Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Persons established to systematically document trafficking cases.

7.6.4 Disability Sensitivity Training included in capacity building for service providers.

7.6.5 OFWs VAW victims are attended by the Filipino Workers Resource Centre operated by the Philippine Foreign Service Posts, supported by Philippine Overseas Labour Offices, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and Social Welfare Attaches.

7.6.6 DOH operates Women and Children Protection Units (WCPUs) in 67 retained hospitals nationwide that provide medical interventions, and support to women-friendly spaces in evacuation centres.

7.6.7 Women's desks in all police stations to attend to complaints/cases involving women, including women with disabilities, as mandated by RA 8551. Police officers assigned to women's desks go through GST.

Progress in the national operationalization of VAWDOCS

7.7 Presently, the system is not ready for nationwide implementation. It is still being enhanced with additional functionalities based on piloting in 3 LGUs.

Updates on measures to ensure full compliance with the views of the Committee in the cases of Karen Vertido vs and R vs the Philippines

7.8 A law is necessary to implement the recommendations of the Committee with respect to compensation. However, there are existing remedies available for victims of rape:

- Pursue a civil suit in court, independent of the criminal aspect of the case
- File claims before the Board of Claims

7.9 Training and education of judges, prosecutors and court personnel on gender responsive handling of cases are continuously conducted (See 1.14). Also, the courts implement the 2004 directive of the Supreme Court allowing the hiring of sign-language interpreters to assist deaf parties or witnesses in case proceedings.

7.10 On the suggested legislative measure, proposed bill, SB 2462, which seeks to amend the definition of rape, notes the comments of the Committee.

F. Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

8. Monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking programs

8.1 IACAT oversees the planning and implementation of anti-trafficking programs. Its 2nd National Strategic Action Plan for 2012-2016 establishes

timelines and measures to be implemented by the member agencies in 4 key result areas: Advocacy and Prevention; Protection, Recovery and Reintegration; Prosecution and Law Enforcement; and Partnership and Networking.

8.2 IACAT conducts bi-annual monitoring and evaluation workshop to assess the gains and challenges in the implementation of the Plan, to review priorities and to re-align activities if necessary.

8.3 The 11th Annual TIP Report of the US State Department removed the Philippines from its watch-list. The 2014 Global Slavery Index ranked the Philippines first in Asia, third in Asia-Pacific and twenty-ninth globally in terms of the government's efforts and programs, especially on the response of the criminal justice system against human trafficking.

Data on the complaints, investigations and prosecutions, convictions, and sentences for the crime of trafficking, and types of protection and compensation provided to women victims

8.4 The Philippine National Police (PNP) handled 329 trafficking cases in 2015, 189 of which or 57% were referred for prosecution, 84 or 26% are still under investigation and 44 or 13% with cases filed in court. Of the filed cases 1,325 or 88% of the 1,505 identified victims were females, while 304 or 23% of the female victims were minors. ¼ of 1,325 females are girl-children.

Table 2
Trafficking Cases Handled by PNP, 2015

Status	*Number of Cases*	*%*
Under Investigation	84	26
Referred to Prosecution	189	57
Filed in Court	44	13
Victims who refused to execute affidavit	12	4
Total	**329**	**100**

Source: PNP-WCPC

8.5 Since the enactment of RA 9208 (Expanded Anti-TIP Act) in 2003, the IACAT Secretariat has monitored 2,831 trafficking cases nationwide from prosecution to conviction. Majority (87%) of the identified victims were women and female minors.

Table 3
Trafficking Cases Handled by DOJ, 2003-2015

Status	*Number*	*%*
Under Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	172	6.0
Dismissed on Preliminary Investigation at DOJ	267	9.4
Pending Petition for Review	3	0.1
On Trial	1 052	37.0
Dismissed in Court	425	15.0

Status	*Number*	*%*
Archived	450	16.0
With Standing Warrant of Arrest	135	5.0
Submitted for Decision	14	0.5
Decided	313	11.0
Acquittals — 69 (22%)		
Convictions — 244 (78%)		
Guilty of offense as charged — 224 (92%)		
Guilty of lesser offense — 20 (8%)		
Total	**2 831**	**100**

Source: DOJ

8.6 Three-year data shows 128 convictions involving 142 persons. More than half of the convictions involved 79 persons who were sentenced to life imprisonment with fines ranging from 2 million to 6 million pesos.

Table 4
Trafficking Cases — Convictions

Year	*No. of Convictions*	*No. of Persons Convicted*
2013	27	37
2014	55	57
2015 (15 Jan 2016)	46	48
Total	**128**	**142**

Source: IACAT

8.7 For protective and support services, the Recovery and Reintegration Program of Trafficked Persons (RRPTP) is in place. It has served a total of 5,096 trafficking victims nationwide since 2013, 74% (3,754) of whom were women. Victims are trafficked due to forced labour, sexual exploitation and prostitution. RRPTP services include temporary shelter, financial assistance, Information Communication Technology (ICT) training, auxiliary services for ongoing cases or referrals for employment.

8.8 The Witness Protection Program provides security and protection to victims as well as economic assistance and medical care through enrolment in public insurance program.

Policies and procedures for the early identification of victims of trafficking, in particular women and girls

8.9 Since 2015, clearer and stricter rules in inspection and deferment of departure of international bound passengers are in place. A Handbook on International and National Legal Frameworks in Combating Human Trafficking has been developed as reference.

8.10 Pre-departure orientation and registration processes are required for travellers, migrants and officers assigned abroad. Guidance and counselling is mandatory for departing spouses or marriage migrants to check for possible violations or irregularities that could lead to trafficking.

8.11 Government-run reporting system for real-time reporting of suspected human trafficking activities are in place.

Updates on the efforts undertaken to ensure bilateral, regional and international cooperation to prevent trafficking

8.12 ASEAN Ministers signed the ASEAN Convention on Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), Especially Women and Children and the ASEAN Plan of Action (APA) against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children during the 20th ASEAN in November, 2015, reaffirming the commitment to a stronger and more effective regional and international cooperation against TIP.

8.13 The ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Plan of Action 2016-2020 pursues the objectives of the ASEAN-UN Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership. It contains commitment to support the implementation of several ASEAN instruments on trafficking.

8.14 The 2015 Manila Declaration to Enhance International Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking calls for the urgent need for a comprehensive approach to stop trafficking, and underscores the strengthened cooperation and joint responsibility of each stakeholder to prevent, detect and prosecute human trafficking as well as provide victim protection.

8.15 The Philippines has signed agreements with Australia and Netherlands to eliminate trafficking enhance cooperation and coordination in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, child sexual exploitation (including via internet) and child sex tourism.

8.16 Philippine operatives coordinate with their counterparts in other countries in the rescue of trafficked victims. In October 2015, 39 women were rescued in Malaysia and Sabah. This cooperation is covered by a bilateral agreement with Malaysia, and reinforced by dialogues on cross-border TIP investigations.

8.17 The State has 2 ongoing joint investigations with Netherlands and one each with USA, Netherlands, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia and Spain. Coordination with the Kurdistan Regional Government led to the rescue of 10 sex trafficking victims in Baghdad who were subsequently repatriated to the Philippines with International Organization for Migration (IOM). Counselling services and preventive measures are provided with assistance from networks in countries.

8.18 Internal coordination mechanisms are continuously strengthened among concerned government agencies and with LGUs. Also, continuing capacity building among enforcers and providers of assistance is conducted.

Ratification of the Palermo Protocol by the State Party

8.19 The State Party ratified the Protocol on 28 May 2002.

9. Information on measures adopted to prevent sexual exploitation of women and girls

9.1 Measures to prevent sexual exploitation:

- Creation of a special unit for the investigation and operations of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls
- Creation of special multi-sectoral anti-trafficking task forces to intercept the operations of suspected trafficking syndicates at airports, land, and water transit points
- Operation of the IACAT 1343 Actionline, a 24/7 hotline that receives and responds to requests for assistance, inquiries and/or referrals on trafficking cases
- A 24/7 operation centre and website that serves as a complaint and reporting centre and a medium to inform the public, especially women and girls against internet fraud, cyber stalking and other internet-related abuses

Measures to support women in prostitution who wish to have alternative means of livelihoods

9.2 The Philippines criminalizes prostitution and provides several measures and services to victims of human trafficking (see 7.6).

9.3 The State, through the DOLE, implements the following:

- Integrated Livelihood Program where trafficking victims can be provided livelihood assistance
- Registration of victims in PhilJobnet
- Referral of victim to the nearest public employment office
- Program for returning migrants

G. Participation in political and public life

10. Concrete steps taken by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to incorporate specific provisions in the accreditation of political parties to promote integration of women

10.1 COMELEC conducted 6 consultations in select cities/provinces and 1 roundtable discussion in 2015 for the formulation of the Guidelines on promoting women's integration in political parties and party-list organizations.

10.2 While the Guidelines are being developed, the COMELEC also conducted seminars/trainings for women aspiring to run for public office, incumbent female officials of LGUs, and leaders of women's groups and sectoral organizations in anticipation of the 2016 national and local elections.

Timetables established by the State party to achieve the quotas for 3rd level managerial positions (50/50) and local development councils (40%) to accelerate women's equal participation in all areas of political and public life, including higher levels of public service and the judiciary

10.3 MCW provides for the incremental increase in the number of women in 3rd level positions in the bureaucracy until 50-50 gender balance is achieved, within five years from 2009. The 40% representation of women in local development councils has no timeline because it is a standing guideline provided by the MCW.

Measures taken to ensure the full diversity of women's representation in political and public bodies, particularly indigenous and Muslim women

10.4 The MCW's provisions on women's participation and representation apply to all Filipino women regardless of religion, ethnicity or geography. It also mandates the implementation of capacity-building and leadership formation programs for grassroots women leaders to enable them to participate in policy-making or decision-making.

10.5 Other laws also require women's representation.

- R.A. 8371 (IPRA) provides that at least 2 of the 7 Commissioners of the NCIP shall be women
- R.A. 9997 (NCMF Act of 2009) specifies that one of the 9 full-time members of the NCMF shall come from the women sector
- For local elective positions, R.A. 7160 provides that local legislative bodies shall each have one sectoral representative from the women sector.

Whether campaigns to raise awareness of the importance for society as a whole of the participation of women in decision-making positions have been carried out and mechanisms for monitoring of the impact of the measures exist

10.6 Regular and continuous information campaigns on the importance of women's participation in decision making in all levels and in both public and private spheres. A mechanism for monitoring the impact of such efforts is yet to be put in place.

Information on the participation of women in the peace process

10.7 From 1986-2015, the government negotiating panel engaged in the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF had 7 women panel members. Two women also served as chair of the government peace panel in June-December 1986 and in 2005-2010.

10.8 In the peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF):

- A woman chaired the Government Panel while another woman was in the panel.
- One of the 2 women headed the legal team of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) peace panel.
- 2 of the 4 Technical Working Groups for the Annexes to the GPH-MILF Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro were headed by a woman.
- 4 of the 15 members of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission are women.

H. Education

11. Updated information and disaggregated data on the situation of education for women and girls in the State Party

11.1 The table below shows the comparative number of boys and girls availing basic education. More boys start but girls tend to stay longer in both elementary and secondary levels.

Table 5
Basic Education SY 2014-2014

Enrolment (E) Rate	*Total (TE)*	*Female (FE)*	*(F) %*	*Male (ME)*	*(M) %*
Kindergarten	1 812 960	883 131	48.71	929 829	51.29
Elementary	14 453 060	6 904 847	47.77	7 548 213	52.22
Secondary	7 314 740	3 683 576	50.36	3 631 164	49.64

Table 6
Cohort Survival (CS) Rate

	Total (TCS)	*(TCS/TE) %*	*Female (FCS)*	*(FCS/FE) %*	*Male (MCS)*	*(MCS/ME)%*
Elementary	13 199 980	91.33	6 475 366	93.78	6 725 458	89.10
Secondary	5 896 412	80.61	3 215 762	87.3	2 693 597	74.18

Access to education for women and girls, including disparity in access between urban and rural areas

11.2 Boys and girls have equal access to education but urban areas have higher density of schools and facilities than the rural areas. To address the imbalance, alternative education is available in rural areas. For instance, R.A. 10168 mandates the establishment of rural farm schools as alternative delivery mode of secondary education to address the needs of children in rural, agricultural or fishing communities. DepED also implements the Alternative Learning System (ALS) to expand the chances of drops out to return to school. ALS has basic literacy program and a continuing education program-accreditation and equivalency. Learning can take place anytime, anyplace depending on the convenience and availability of learners.

Enrolment and retention rates of women and girls at all levels of education and areas of study

11.3 Data below show that there are more females than males in tertiary education. More males than females are enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture and Mathematics (STEAM) courses, while more female than males are enrolled in non-STEAM courses.

Table 7
Tertiary Education, SY 2014-2015

Courses	*Total*	*Female*	*%*	*Male*	*%*
Enrolment (E) Rate					
STEAM	707 819	226 574	32.01	481 245	67.99
Non-STEAM	3 103 907	1 883 077	60.67	1 220 830	39.33
Total	**3 811 726**	**2 109 651**	**55.35**	**1 702 075**	**44.65**

11.4 In vocational-technical education, more women enrolled and graduated in technical-vocational education and training (TVET) courses than men from 2011 to 2015. As of the third quarter of 2015, 52.9% (678,093) of the 1,280,101 million enrolees and 53.3% (633,393) of the 1,192,444 graduates were women.

Table 8
Technical Vocational Education and Training, 2011-2015

	TVET Enrolment and Graduates By Sex: 2011 to 2015 (3rd Quarter)					
	Enrolled			*Graduates*		
Year	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2011	777 265	794 866	1 572 131	658 986	673 765	1 332 751
2012	874 789	929 953	1 804 742	775 928	824 730	1 600 658
2013	739 219	802 092	1 541 311	670 077	722 097	1 392 174
2014	972 359	1 061 058	2 033 417	859 446	926 233	1 785 679
3Q of 2015	602 008	678 093	1 280 101	559 051	633 393	1 192 444

Measures taken to reduce the dropout rates of girls

11.5 Drop-out rates have consistently been higher for boys than girls. The State's concern is therefore to keep the boys in school. Some measures to reduce drop-out rates include:

- Scholarships and financial assistance to underprivileged students
- Employment Program to help working students with financial difficulties
- Special programs for marginalized groups of students (i.e. IPs, persons with disabilities [PWDS] and learners under difficult circumstances)
- *Madrasah* programs for Muslim learners in both private and public schools
- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Pantawid Pamilya) or Conditional Cash Transfer program, requiring household beneficiaries to keep children in school
- Free day-care services in select training centres of TESDA for its female enrolees

11.6 In the past 5 years, the dropout rate for boys and girls is decreasing, from 5.02% in 2010 down to 2.77% in 2015 for female enrolees, and 7.45% in 2010 and 3.75% in 2015 for male enrolees.

Current situation in the State Party regarding violence and sexual harassment of girls in schools

11.7 Sexual harassment in schools is increasingly being recognized, discussed and addressed especially at the tertiary level. The establishment of CODI is a requirement in all schools as a mechanism for investigation and resolution of cases. TESDA and other vocational-technical institutions have also set up mechanisms to handle sexual harassment cases.

11.8 Child Protection Policy of the State mandates the development of child protection committees in schools to address bullying, sexual harassment and other forms of abuse.

Integration of age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights education in the school curricula at all levels of education

11.9 Pursuant to the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health (RPRH) Law, sexual and reproductive health and rights education are integrated in the primary and secondary school curricula, as well as in courses offered in higher educational institutions.

Eliminating stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in textbooks, curricula and teacher training

11.10 DepEd adopted a Social Content Guidelines in the development of elementary and secondary instructional and learning materials, mandating the system to: (1) avoid sexist language, bias, prejudice and stereotyping of males and females in the depiction of behaviours, roles, occupations, etc.; (2) avoid differentiation in the political, economic, or social well-being contributions; and (3) maintain balance in the treatment of gender roles, occupations, and contributions in both text and non-text materials.

11.11 CHED Memorandum Order No. 1 Series of 2015 ensures, among others, that existing gender stereotypes and sexist images in educational materials are removed and revised.

11.12 TESDA Circular No. 26-2012 was issued for the Roll-Out of Gender Sensitive Training Curriculum and Gender Sensitive Trainer's Manual, mandating the integration of gender sensitivity in the curriculum and development of gender fair instructional materials.

I. Employment

12. Relative to the Committee's previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/PHI/CO/6, para. 26), measures taken to:

(a) protect women working in the informal sector, particularly to provide them with social benefits, such as health benefit package

12.1 PhilHealth provides partial subsidy scheme for micro-entrepreneurs. It also implements an indigency program for those with no visible means of income or whose income is insufficient for family Female spouse may be designated as the primary member of the Program.

(b) promote their integration into the formal labour force, in particular those living in rural areas

12.2 The Dcpartment of Trade and Industry's Rural Micro-Enterprise Promotion Program (RuMePP) has been assisting rural women and men's entrepreneurship through micro-finance services consolidation, nonfinancial services and market linkage development. It pays particular consideration to women's economic activities and their movement to bigger management and production including use of technology.

12.3 DOLE's Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program grants assistance in terms of working capital and other productive resources for the poor and the marginalized including women. The program supported 547,094 workers in 2010-2015, 19% of them women.

12.4 DOLE's Sustainable Livelihood Program promotes women's leadership roles within their communities and their involvement in decision-making for community development policies and programs.

12.5 DOLE also implements a support program for women sugar workers and landless seasonal field workers, and has helped 6,165 beneficiaries from 2010-2015. Programs to address women's vulnerability include:

- Reduction of service requirement to qualify for maternity leave benefits from 4 months to 3 months.
- Advanced payment of maternity benefit on the seventh month of pregnancy instead of upon delivery.

(c) address the high unemployment rate of women, reduce the wage gap between women and men and eliminate horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market

12.6 Programs to address above issues:

- DOLE's Jobstart, Phil-Jobnet and Government Internship Program
- DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program

(d) number of reported cases of sexual harassment in the workplace and the measures taken to prevent and punish such acts

12.7 The Civil Service Commission (CSC) received 14 sexual harassment cases from 2013-2015, 12 cases have so far been resolved while 2 are still pending. 11 of the resolved cases favoured the complainants and 1 favoured the respondent.

12.8 There is no available data from the private sector. Nonetheless, DOLE reported that 86.8% of the 44,525 establishments nationwide comply with the CODI requirement of RA 7877.

(e) Mechanisms in place to address complaints of discriminatory practices with regard to employment

12.9 Philippine laws such as the 1987 Constitution, Labour Code of the Philippines, R.A. 10361 (Domestic Workers Act), R.A. 9710 (MCW), RA 1015 (Employment of Night Workers Act), and RA 6725 (Act Strengthening the Prohibition on Discrimination against Women in Employment) prohibit discriminatory practices with regard to employment.

12.10 Other mechanisms that address discriminatory practices:

- Kasambahay (household service workers) desks
- GAD Focal Point System in agencies and LGUs
- Gender Focal Point Officer in Philippine Embassies and Consulates
- Gender Ombud

(f) Measures to address high incidence of child labour

12.11 Measures to address child labour:

- Mainstreaming in development plans (e.g. PLEP)
- Issuance of memos by DOLE and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to eliminate child labour
- Indicator on child labour included in Presidential Award for Child Friendly Municipalities and Cities
- Strengthened compliance and implementation of the law against child labour (RA 9231), including monitoring compliance to related ILO conventions
- Livelihood support programs for parents to augment the household income

13. Information on the impact of the adoption of the amended Migrant Workers' Act and the amendments to the household service workers policy, and if there is regular monitoring and assessment of the said measures/policy

13.1 Insofar as the household service workers policy is concerned, there was an observed increased enrolment of household helpers in Social Security System, from the 95,000 before the enactment of the Kasambahay Law to 105,000 as of 2014.

13.2 A Unified Registration System for household service workers has been operational since December 2013. PhilHealth has reportedly registered about 2,500 household workers under its program in less than a year.

Steps taken to strengthen access to justice for women migrant workers in the receiving country

13.3 Creation of the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) through RA 8042 as amended, to assist distressed Overseas Filipinos.

13.4 Clearer policy and procedures for assisting distressed OFWs through a Joint Manual of Operations in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers and Other

Filipinos Overseas, issued on 2015 for efficient and effective delivery of government services.

13.5 Operation of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Welfare Assistance Fund which covers expenses for welfare cases handled by the overseas officers not covered by the LAF.

Statistical data concerning women migrant workers, including returning migrant workers

13.6 Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2014 Survey on OFWs, there are a total of 2,320,000 Filipinos working abroad, 50.4% (1,170,000) of which are female and 49.6% (1,149,000) male. The estimates cover overseas Filipinos whose departure occurred within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months of the survey period. See table below:

Table 9
Distribution of OFWs by Age Group, Sex and Area: 2014

Area	*Both Sexes*	*Male*	*Female*
Philippines (in thousands)	2 320	1 149	1 170
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-24	8.2	7.5	8.9
25-29	24.8	19.8	29.8
30-34	23.7	22.7	24.8
35-39	15.8	16.2	15.5
40-44	11.6	12.5	10.7
45 and over	15.8	21.4	10.4

Notes: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

1/Excluding NCR.

The estimates cover overseas Filipinos whose departure occurred within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months (April to September) of the survey period. The province of Leyte was not covered in 2014 SOF.

Source: PSA, 2014 Survey on Overseas Filipinos

13.7 During the same year, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) reported a total of 1,741,392 migrant workers consisting of land-based new hires and rehires, and seafarers were deployed, 54.6% of which are men and 45.4% are women. POEA data do not include undocumented OFWs which could have been reported in the PSA survey. It also includes OFWs who left within the last five years and who are working or had worked abroad during the past six months of the survey period. See table below:

Table 10
POEA Report on OFWs, 2014

	2014			2015[a]		
Type of Workers	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Land based – New Hires	193 734 (40.3%)	286 598 (59.6%)	480 332	161 408 (39.5%)	246 817 (60.5%)	408 225
Land based – Rehires	369 502 (42.9%)	490 993 (57.1%)	860 495	246 094 (51.8%)	228 604 (48.2%)	474 698
Sea based	388 216 (96.9%)	12 349 (3.08%)	400 565	239 831 (96.85%)	7 803 (3.15%)	247 634
Total No. of Migrant Workers	951 452 (54.6%)	789 940 (45.4%)	1 741 392	647 333 (57.3%)	483 224 (42.7%)	1 130 557

[a] 2015 Deployment Data-Preliminary
Source: POEA

Results of the (reported) steps taken to increase employment, support women's entrepreneurship and improve social safety nets and social protection with a view to address the root causes of trafficking and migration, and whether regular monitoring and assessment of the abovementioned is carried out

13.8 The following reflect the results of DOLE employment and livelihood assistance programs undertaken:

- 493,742 for poor but deserving students, 42.5% of whom were women, from 2010-2013, under its Special Program for the Employment of Students
- 167,569 recipients of income earning support for their education
- 3,705 individual and group OFW-beneficiaries of its Balik Pinay! Balik Hanapbuhay! Project, with support worth P38.9 million
- 3,001 OFW returnees and families benefited from their livelihood assistance, including 495 women provided skills training on entrepreneurship
- support to 763 displaced OFWs seeking domestic or overseas employment, and 12,143 OFWs trained on entrepreneurship by the National Reintegration Centre for OFWs (NRCO) of DOLE

13.9 The Pantawid Pamilya household beneficiaries as of January 2016 has reached 4.4 million.

Measures taken to address the minimum age limit for women seeking employment outside the country

13.10 POEA issued a directive in 2007 setting the minimum age for women seeking household service work overseas at 23 years old. For other types of work, the minimum age is 18.

Measures taken to address the treatment and handling of cases of women migrant workers (pertaining to "2013 Sex for Flight Scandal")

13.11 DOLE issued 2 memorandum circulars in 2013 on new corrective measures to strengthen the operations of Philippine Overseas Labour Offices (POLOs) and Migrant Workers and Other Filipino Resource Centre (MWOFRC), making it more gender-balanced/sensitive and values-oriented services.

13.12 More female welfare officers and administrative staff were deployed to handle migrant women's concerns. Gender sensitivity training for those handling distressed workers included pre-departure training of all deployable/overseas officers.

13.13 A Joint Manual of Operations in Providing Assistance to Migrant Workers and Other Filipinos Overseas was issued in 2015 delineating the roles of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), DOLEDSWD and DOH.

14. Updates on the implementation of the labour agreement between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia

(a) Whether implementing guidelines on the said agreement have been adopted and steps taken to ensure that there is effective monitoring of the said guidelines/agreement, and that migrant workers are informed of their rights

14.1 Joint Committee Meetings between the State Party and Saudi Arabia concerning the Agreement on Domestic Worker Recruitment is regularly conducted to monitor implementation. Updates include:

- Bank accounts of workers opened through mega-recruitment companies. Other means explored is Philippine banks to open branches in Saudi or partnership with international banks.
- Monitoring of day-off and rest day is a challenge for overseas officers due to huge number of workers which has increased six times.
- Minimum salary of USD400 is monitored by POLOs. They would not approve or validate employment contracts if salary is below the minimum, and POEA would not issue Overseas Employment Certificate. No reports on non-compliance received.
- A 24 hour-assistance facility already in place with a customer service line. Translation services being proposed to be provided.

(b) Outcome of the (2013) review by POEA of the bilateral labour agreements of 20 destination countries of Filipino Migrant Workers, and other destinations

14.2 Nine (9) bilateral labour agreements in seven countries (Germany, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Korea Switzerland and Italy) have been reviewed and signed, while 12 are still pending (UAE, Kuwait, Yemen, Iraq, Seychelles, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Indonesia, Mongolia, Malaysia, Russia).

(c) Whether a "human-rights and gender-based" approach was ensured in the adoption of these agreements

14.3 Yes. The agreements considered international human rights standards and women's right promotion and protection, given that they are the most vulnerable. The agreements provide redress to discriminatory practices and ensure that existing inequalities are analysed and resolved.

J. Health

15. Budget allocated to women's health and measures taken to ensure access to health services for all women, in particular rural women, women with disabilities, indigenous women and Muslim women

15.1 The State allocated P2.275 billion to implement the RPRH law. More than 75% (P1.67 B) of allocation will go to procurement of family planning commodities.

Number of women living with HIV/AIDS in the state party, in particular women in prostitution

15.2 Data from the DOH HIV/AIDS Registry show a cumulative number of 2,420 reported cases of women with HIV/AIDS from January 1984-December 2015, 322 of these cases were reported in 2015.

15.3 A cumulative number of 61 cases of women with HIV/AIDS who engage in transactional sex were reported from October 2012-December 2015.[2]

Measures taken to protect HIV-positive women from discrimination, as well as measures for containing the spread of HIV

15.4 Bills were filed in Congress to strengthen the 1998 Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act and the present Philippine National Aids Council (PNAC), as well as to strengthen engagement with local communities in developing multi-sectoral approach in HIV/AIDS programs.

15.5 Some LGUs have passed local ordinances on AIDS prevention and control and some have also included concern for AIDS in their GAD codes.

15.6 To encourage and support women's medical treatment, PhilHealth has an outpatient HIV/AIDS treatment package to cover drugs and medicines, laboratory examinations and professional fees of providers.

15.7 Mobile communications campaign to provide information and referrals to HIV counselling, testing and life-staying treatment program conducted in 2014 by PNAC and Globe Telecommunications.

16. Measures taken to give effect to the recommendations contained in the Committee's inquiry concerning the Philippines under Art. 8 of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, including any results achieved; Steps taken to officially revoke EO 003 and 030

16.1 The RPRH Law repealed or amended existing laws, etc. that are inconsistent with it. Executive Orders (EO) 003 and 030 are thus effectively revoked.

16.2 The City of Manila has committed to implement the RPRH law. It has conducted reorientation trainings for its health personnel and distributed family planning commodities to Manila health facilities.

[2] Health and Recovery Plans (HARP), December 2015.

Steps taken to amend Arts. 256 to 259 of the Criminal Code in order to legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, threat to the life and/or health of the mother, or serious malformation of the foetus

16.3 There was a proposal to include justified grounds for abortion in the PCC but this was not included in the final draft.

Steps taken to provide women with access to full range of contraceptive services, including emergency contraception, and to quality post-abortion care in all public health facilities

16.4 DOH has taken the following steps:

- Allotted Php 596 million (USD 12.8 million) for family planning commodities
- Drafted guidelines for benefit packages and reimbursements for the use of various family planning methods
- Conducted capacity building activities for health workers
- Organized a TWG to review the draft enhanced Prevention and Management of Abortion Complications (PMAC) Guidelines.

K. Women with disabilities

17. Disaggregated statistical data of PWDs in the country

17.1 In 2010, PWDs comprised 1.57% of the total population, with slightly more males than females in all age groups except for the 65 years or older bracket. In addition, about 3.1% (2,566,274 persons) of the population five years and over had at least one functional difficulty, 53.1% of whom are females.

Table 11
Distribution of PWDs (in thousands), 2010

Total Population	*Total PWDs*	*Males (No. and %)*	*Females (No. and %)*
92 100	1 443 (1.57%)	734.487 (50.9%)	708.513 (49.1%)

Source: PSA, Census of Population and Housing, 2010

Table 12
Broad Age and Sex Distribution of PWDs (in thousands), 2010

	Total		*Male*		*Female*		
Age	*Number*	*Percent Distribution*	*Number*	*Percent Distribution*	*Number*	*Percent Distribution*	*Percent Female*
All ages	1 443	99.9%	734	100%	709	100%	49.1%
0-14	272	18.8%	149	20.3%	123	17.3%	45.2%
15-49	578	40.0%	312	42.5%	266	37.5%	46.0%
50-64	274	19.0%	141	19.2%	133	18.8%	48.5%
65-up	319	22.1%	132	18.0%	187	26.4%	58.6%

Source: PSA, Census of Population and Housing, 2010

Measures taken to address discrimination and VAW and ensure access to services

17.2 Support services, benefits and privileges for PWDs are provided by law (Programs on the advancement of women's rights and accessibility for persons with disabilities are being implemented by the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). NCDA created the Sub-Committee on Access to Justice and Discrimination for Persons with Disabilities to handle complaints of discrimination. The Subcommittee works with the Public Attorney's Officer (PAO).

17.3 Education, employment, therapeutic and psychosocial services and medical assistance, recreational activities, among others, are provided by DSWD.

17.4 Other programs and advocacy activities to ensure PWDs' access to opportunities and fair treatment are being implemented by other government agencies and LGUs:

- Livelihood support program and fund from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- Protection services for female PWDs from DOJ
- Gender Sensitivity Training of DOJ's service providers dealing with PWDs
- Supreme Court's issuance of a memorandum allowing the hiring of sign language interpreters in court proceedings, as necessary
- Police assistance to PWDs under PNP's Women's Desks
- Alternative Learning System for PWDS through DepEd
- Enactment of Guidelines on the Utilization of Support Funds for the Special Education Program by DepEd

L. Indigenous and Muslim women

18. Information on the status of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and how the rights of indigenous women, including their rights to ancestral domain and self-governance are ensured in the BBL

18.1 In the draft BBL, there is a specific provision on the recognition, promotion and protection of Muslim and indigenous women's rights, including the rights to:

- native titles and/or *fusaka inged*, indigenous customs and traditions, justice systems and indigenous political structures
- equitable share in revenues from the utilization of resources in their ancestral lands
- free and prior informed consent
- political participation in the Bangsamoro government

However, BBL is still pending in Congress.

18.2 Nonetheless, the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro signed in March 2014, which recognizes the rights and meaningful participation of women, is continuously being implemented.

18.3 Existing laws guarantee the rights of Muslim and IP Women. Section 10 of RA 9054 amending RA6734 (Organic Act for ARMM) upholds and protects the fundamental rights of women and children, while the rights of indigenous women, including their rights to ancestral domain are upheld in Section 21 of the IPRA.

Steps taken to address the effects of extractive industries, including mining activities and large-scale infrastructure development projects on indigenous women; Reported incidents of sexual violence, land-grabbing and forced relocation and displacement.

18.4 The IPRA and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples(ICCs/IPs) from extractive industries through the following provisions:

- Implementation of the principle of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in agreements/contracts regarding the utilization, extraction or development of natural resources within ancestral domains, as well as relocation. New Guidelines for FPIC was issued in 2012 to enhance representation of ICCs/IPs and benefit sharing, and include provisions on monitoring of royalties
- Visitorial and monitoring powers on approved program/projects to ICCs/IPs and the NCIP and
- Allocation of at least 30% of all funds from the utilization, extraction, use and development of lands and natural resources within ancestral domains to ICC/IP communities.

18.5 EO No. 79, s. 2012 was also issued institutionalizing and implementing reforms in the Philippine Mining Sector and providing policies and guidelines to ensure environmental protection and responsible mining in the utilization of mineral resources.

18.6 A Quick Response Mechanism for handling Indigenous Peoples Rights Violations (IPRVs) has been piloted in 12 regions.

See also item 20.2.

Measures taken in the ARMM like the PAMANA and HELPS programs, and their impact on indigenous and Muslim women, in particular regarding access to health care, social security, education, clean water, sanitation services, fertile land, income-generating opportunities and participation in decision-making processes.

18.7 The *Payapa at Masaganang PamayaNAn* (PAMANA) reduces the vulnerability of women in conflict-affected areas through the delivery of community infrastructure and focused social services:

- Health insurance benefits provided to 462 former women rebels from the CBA-CPLA, CPP/NPA/NDF, MNLF, and RPMP-RPA-ABB-TPG
- Various shelter support programs such as the Haven for Women served 2,043 women
- Agrarian reforms benefitted 3,000 women, 50% of which were from Zamboanga del Sur
- Financial assistance for students (for SY 2014-2015 to SY 2015-2016) was provided to 279 females and 187 males under the program.

18.8 The *Sajahatra Bangsamoro* Program jointly implemented by the Government and the MILF beginning February 2013 provided initial dividends of the peace process to Bangsamoro communities by uplifting their health, education and livelihood conditions. In terms of education, for SY 2014-2015 to SY 2015-2016, tuition fee assistance was provided to 337 students, 68% (230) of which are women.

Table 13
Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries

Year	*Total ARBs*	*Number of women*	*% women*
2010	1 143 914	308 856	27
2015	2 303 454	668 001	29
Difference		359 144	2

18.9 For indigenous women, 19 income generating-related training activities were conducted in 2015 with at least 2,732 indigenous women beneficiaries. Inter-agency coordination with LGUs for potable water supply projects was also undertaken benefitting 50 indigenous women families.

Provide steps taken to effectively ensure a gender-sensitive approach to address the needs of displaced Muslim and indigenous women.

18.10 Gender-responsive and culture sensitive case management and appropriate services were instituted which include, but are not limited to, temporary shelter, psychosocial support and healing sessions, medical services, self-enhancement sessions, livelihood skills development sessions, and counselling services.

18.11 Ten (10) Women-Friendly Spaces were established in evacuation camps or relocation sites where women can access various services during crisis situations such as natural or human-made disasters in 2013-2014.

18.12 The National Disaster Response Plan provides for the provision of culture and gender sensitive health services; balanced representation of women and men in evacuation centre/camp management committees; and deployment of women police officers and maintenance of women and child protection desks.

18.13 Under the localization of the Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security to implement UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, 1 regional and 5 provincial Women and Children's Peace Centres were established in the ARMM to ensure that government services will reach the marginalized and conflict-affected communities in Mindanao.

18.14 See also item 20.2 on measures taken to protect internally displaced persons.

M. Rural Women

19. Provide information on the programs reported, their impact and results, as well as concrete measures taken to address rural women living in poverty; Steps taken to ensure that women working in the agriculture and fisheries sectors can effectively access support services, including microcredits and training, as well as technology; Number of rural women recognized as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries; How is gender perspective is ensured in the area of food production.

19.1 Women comprised 27% of the 1,143,914 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) by December 2010. In 2013, this percentage increased to 29% of the total number of 2,303,454 ARBs provided with Certificate of Land Ownership Award. Corresponding support services were also provided to make their land more productive.

Source: *BPfA+20 Report*

19.2 Women have become more empowered and active in key decision-making positions affecting rural and farming community's productivity and efficiency. To date, they are active members and officers of cooperatives and organizations, including in LGUs. See table below:

Table 14
Women's Participation in Agrarian Reform Communities

Key Roles/Positions	*Number of women in such position*
Members of Agrarian Reform Cooperatives	468 706
ARB women organizations	3 283
Board of Directors in ARB organizations	11 118
ARBs involved in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of socio-economic programs of organizations with agrarian reform communities	8 311
ARBS elected at:	
-barangay level	8 349
-municipal level	1 244
-provincial level	193

Source: Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)

19.3 From 2010-2015, women participated in capacity building or training on various skill development programs (64%) and a substantial number (30%) availed of credit services, in most instances, to apply skills learned from their training. See table below:

Table 15
Women Beneficiaries of ARC Programs

	No. of women reached per year						
Type of support services	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*Total*
Microfinance assistance	33 589	51 604	93 253	95 062	–	118 840	392 348
Agri-credit	36 218	44 005	59 910	106 598	184 695	72 786	504 212
Training for ARBs in ARCs and non-ARCs	136 260	147 765	273 049	457 248	413 756	475 938	1 904 016
Support services for rural women	22 128	28 085	33 116	23 650	38 430	37 691	183 100
Total	**228 195**	**271 459**	**459 328**	**682 558**	**636 881**	**705 255**	**2 983 676**

Source: DAR

19.4 Women's participation is also highly visible in the Fisheries Conservation and Development Program, Faith Project *Modelong Gulayan sa Bayan*, Community/ School Vegetable Production, Bio-Intensive Gardening as well as in food processing.

19.5 The Department of Agriculture (DA) provides training and credit support and other ancillary services for rural households and enterprises. Accomplishments from 2013-2015:

- 43 trainings for 1,545 rural women, including proposal writing
- Provision of seeds and planting materials to 427 women organizations, distributed women-friendly equipment and established 152 community gardens
- Promoted women's participation in congressional hearings
- Recognized outstanding rural women

19.6 The Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program (PPPP) is reaching millions of poor women in rural areas. It is also complemented by social protection, through subsidized enrolment to PhilHealth. As of December 2015, the program implementation geographically covers 100% of the country's 1,483 target municipalities, 144 cities and 80 provinces nationwide covering over 4,379,454 household beneficiaries, 89.2% (3,907,105) of which are women. See table below:

Table 16
Pantawid Pamilya Beneficiaries, 2013-2015

2013		*2014*		*2015*	
Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
335 444	3 505 703	453 706	4 001 410	472 349	3 907 105
3 841 147		4 455 116		4 379 454	

Source: DSWD

19.7 The Sustainable Livelihood Program of DSWD supports entrepreneurship of women in urban and rural areas.

19.8 Another program, the Kabit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapaan — Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Program (KALAHI-CIDSS) empowers communities through enhanced participation in local governance and community projects. In support of the Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives of the project, a Gender Incentive Grant (GIG) was piloted in certain municipalities. Interventions included non-traditional skills training in which a total of 1,399 women were trained in masonry, carpentry, electrical installation, plumbing, etc.; capacity building for 153 communities on maternal and child care, and provision of medical equipment for 25 barangay health stations.

19.9 DAR and DA provide support services to women in agriculture and fisheries. These agencies ensure that their GAD budget is used to strengthen women's access to these services. They encourage women to organize to increase their negotiating position. Support programs are also being assessed and enhanced to make them more gender sensitive. DA is also simplifying its application forms and process for projects, training, funding and other support.

19.10 The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), established a centralized registration database for municipal fisher folk which was rolled out to all coastal and inland municipalities and cities in 2013. To date, the system has more than 1.6 million registered fisher folk, close to 40% of which are women.

N. Natural disasters and climate change

20. Ways in which natural disasters and climate change affect women in the Philippines

20.1 There are two ways in which women are affected:

- Women face challenges in taking care of the needs of their family in the aftermath of disasters while other family members look for food and other provisions such as shelter and the like.
- Women also face challenges in the loss of facilities and infrastructure and scarcity of resources in the days succeeding a natural disaster. Efforts are underway to train women to prepare for disasters or be proactive rather than react only after the incident.

On whether the Philippines has incorporated a gender perspective into risk reduction strategies

20.2 Yes, the State Party has incorporated gender perspective into its risk reduction strategies as indicated in the following:

- National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (2010-2022) identifies gender mainstreaming as one of its cross-cutting strategies.
- RA 10121 (Disaster Risk Reduction and Management [DRRM] Act) ensures that climate change measures are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems, and respectful of human rights (Sec. 2 (j)); and mandate of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to institutionalize gender analysis in early recovery and post disaster needs assessment (Section 9(m)) and to include the Head of the Local Gender and Development Offices as a member in the Local DRRM Councils (Section 11 (a.7)).

- The People's Survival Fund (PSF) created under RA 10174 mandates that a gender-sensitive, pro-children and pro-poor perspective be incorporated in all climate change and renewable energy efforts, plans and programs. PCW sits as a member of the PSF Board which manages and administers the PSF to influence gender responsiveness of the program.
- Institutionalization of the Cluster Approach in the Philippine Disaster Management System, protecting women and ensuring that their rights and well-being are assured.

Measures taken to ensure sustainable durable solutions for internally displaced persons due to natural disasters, in particular taking into account the specific needs of women and girls.

20.3 Solutions undertaken include:

Education and Information

- Continuing awareness and education of citizens on prevention and preparedness, such as
  - Capacity building for women on preparedness and adaptation so they can manage, cope and bounce back in cases of disasters
  - Integration of DRRM in school curricula (elementary, secondary, tertiary)
  - Institutionalization of quarterly school-based earthquake and fire drills through issuance of DepEd Memorandum Order 48-2012

Building Back Better

- Improved planning and construction of infrastructure by building disaster resilient classrooms and relocation centres

Response and Recovery

- Creation of Women Friendly Spaces, Transitional Houses, Permanent Shelter
- Setting up of local evacuation centres and temporary shelters, and pre-positioned stockpiles of emergency resources, and streamlined pre-emptive evacuation procedure/process
- Delivery of alternative learning system of education in disaster areas and implementation of school improvement plan

Rehabilitation

- Relocation and resettlement plans for those in the most high-risk areas such as coastal areas, river basins, and in waterways in urban areas
- Sustainable Livelihood Program
- Allocation and utilization of Local DRRM fund
- Pending legislative proposal on the "Rights of Internally Displaced Persons' Act" seeking to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced persons in various compromising situations including natural disasters

Measures taken to ensure the equal participation of women, in particular rural women, at the decision-making level of climate change and natural disaster management.

20.4 Section 13 of the MCW mandates LGUs to develop and implement a gender-responsive and rights-based work and financial plan that include the "active involvement of women in the various camp committees organized for food and water distribution, nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, health, education, protection and security and safety especially in the decision-making processes."

20.5 The National Disaster Response Plan provides for balanced representation of women and men in evacuation centre/camp management committees.

O. Marriage and Family Relations

21. Status of the bill legalizing divorce

21.1 HB 4408, seeking to legalize divorce, is pending in the 16th Congress. However, divorce has long been legal and available for Muslims under the CMPL.

Whether both parties are accorded the same rights and responsibilities upon the dissolution of marriage and how the rights of children are protected

21.2 Spouses' rights and responsibilities

- The absolute community or conjugal partnership of gains and the assets are equally divided between the spouses.
- The spouse not gainfully employed is entitled to support for one year or until he/she finds adequate employment, whichever is shorter.
- A Filipino citizen married to a foreigner may now remarry under the Philippine law regardless of who obtained the divorce in another country, provided that it is found by the Philippine court to be based on any similar ground under Article 55 of the Code.

21.3 Children's rights

- Custody of minors is decided in accordance with the child's best interest.
- Children are entitled to support and to their presumptive legitime in the partition of assets.
- Children conceived or born before the divorce has become final and executory are considered legitimate.

Updates on steps taken to repeal provisions that discriminate on the basis of religion regarding the minimum age of marriage for girls, as well as prohibit polygamous marriages.

21.4 The Islamic leaders endorsed a *Fatwa* on the Model Family in Islam in November.

21.5 The Fatwah covers 4 areas:

- early and forced marriage

- pre-marriage counselling
- comprehensive gender and health education for youth
- gender-based violence

21.6 The Fatwah urges the Muslim youth to get married when the "necessary conditions of mind, maturity and intellectual integrity are met". However, the *Dar-al-ifta* Bangsamoro clarified that the urgency is not applicable to pre-puberty or childhood stage. The Fatwa says that Islam does not precisely fix any marriageable age, although the generally accepted marrying ages for Muslims are 20 years old for males and 18 years for females.